

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 10

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

OCTOBER 2013

President's Message

By Alex King



The Capitol Clarion is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

Marti Dennis, Managing Editor

Bill Geach, Eternal Editor

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month**. Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at:

mdennis1@att.net

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
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What Now?

The weather is changing. The holidays are coming. While those signs sometimes mean time to slow down, CSCMVA continues to operate at a fast pace.

This coming Sunday, October 13th, we will again offer Capitol visitors an opportunity to see the challenges, the controversies and the successes gained when women obtained the right to vote. **Women's Suffrage**, a long-sought effort culminating in 1911, marked a milestone in California history that we should all view with pride.

The many members who are participating in this event, and those who are not, should all encourage their friends, relatives and neighbors to come join us.

Training Opportunities:

Right after the suffrage event, on Wednesday, October 16, Clem Dougherty will finish his great stories of great **California Governors**. Join us in the Capitol Theater at 10 AM to hear fascinating details of the Pat Brown, Ronald Reagan, Jerry Brown and Grey Davis years.

Capitol Curator Koren Benoit, will share her expertise about **Capitol art work** on Thursday, November 21st, at 10 AM. Starting in the Theater, Koren will tour us through several sites in the building that we don't often visit to see some of the valuable and spectacular examples of Capitol art.

Holiday music, in the Capitol Rotunda begins December 1 and continues through the 23rd.

Museum Improvement Opportunities:

In addition to events, CSCMVA continues to seek ways to assist with improvements to, and protection of, the Historic Rooms in the Capitol. We currently are in discussion with a vendor to resurface the counter in the historic Treasurer's Office. We expect that will take place within the next few weeks. Cane chairs, floor matting, exhibit coins and several other items are being discussed. We expect to resolve many of these concerns before the end of the year.

~ Alex

CSCMVA Promotes the Educational and Interpretive Activities of the California State Capitol Museum



2013 Board of Directors

Front (L to R): Marylin Thompson, Bob Dennis, Alex King, David Keck; Back (L to R): Gary Stonehouse, Chris Tyler, Marita Martin, Leslie Cooper, Connie Clark, Bob Dreyer

2013 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
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Marylin Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
Leslie Cooper	Member
Bob Dreyer	Member
Marita Martin	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
Gary Stonehouse	Past President

CSCMVA Board Meeting Minutes:

October 2, 2013

By Marylin Thompson

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Bob Dennis** reported that Book sales are ahead of projected income by \$2,594 for the year to date, and we are ahead of projected income for the year by \$9,000. The treasury is in good shape, but Bob is concerned that our non-profit status may be jeopardized due to State Parks delay in providing a list of improvement opportunities. Bob urges the group to find appropriate ways to spend this amount down. The treasury was augmented this month by a donation of \$300 given by Mary Spitzer in honor of Mary Geach and Connie Clark for their generous help, time and materials for the recent sewing class. Alex also commended Mary and Connie for their many years of work in support of CSCMVA.

BOOKSTORE: **Mary Geach** reported net bookstore sales of \$1,842.40 in September. The new book Mother Goose in California is now available. It has beautiful illustrations and would make a great gift for children. She has ordered the new Capitol Park book three times, because it "flies" off the shelves. She is investigating a gold rush book suitable for ages 8-12, since the one for younger children is no longer available.

MEMBERSHIP: There are 110 Association members.

STATE PARKS REPORT: **Rachel Martinez** reported that Matt is working on an updated list of items which CSCMVA could consider for purchase or repair. He is also looking into more training opportunities, including having a living history trainer come to do a workshop. More information will follow.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Website: **Randall Williams** stated there are no new developments. They have been unable to contact Peter Larsen about incorporating Volgistics with online scheduling. There is a short version of the roster available now on the website which does not contain any "private" information. The URL to get to the website is unwieldy, but we don't have control over that. It does, however, make it difficult for the general public to access our information. A password will be required when Volgistics is finally added.

Admission Day: This was a great success. **Sheri Routh** reported that Leatherbys donated the ice cream, and the banjo band and cake vendor both lowered their prices, so total expenses were only \$360. School groups, especially, enjoyed the refreshments, and there were plenty of volunteers to help. Special thanks to Sheri, Diane Rich, Alex King, and Rachel Martinez. There will be a special binder created to archive short reports from Special Events such as Camellia Day, Admission Day, Museum Day and volunteer social events. The binder will be maintained in the Costume Closet.

Living History Suffrage Day: Everything is on schedule. Small flyers are now available to hand out at the WI desk. A nice photo and publicity information have been submitted to the Sacramento Bee. It was mentioned that the Bee "Ticket" section never mentions the Capitol Museum or any of the exhibits, such as the current Dust Bowl exhibit. This should be taken care of by the Parks Department, and Matt offered to follow up on this omission.

Support of Museum Rooms: Matt will provide specific costs for items on the replacement list, so we can make appropriate Association contributions by the end of the year. Also, there is a \$1,200 budget line item for discretionary Park purchases which has not been tapped. It was agreed that the first priority is refinishing of the Treasurer's Office counter; second priority is floor mats; and third is the repair of the non-historic cane-seated bentwood chairs. It was moved by Bob Dennis and seconded by David Keck, that Alex, Bob Dreyer and David Keck be authorized to remove all the cane chairs which need repair and proceed with getting them fixed. Motion was passed unanimously.

Costume closet: Bob Dennis wondered if the recent \$300 donation could be used for costume closet equipment or supplies. He reported that Ann and Tom Rost noted that there is a need for men's coats. Mary Geach will provide cost estimates for the purchase of 3 or 4 men's coats in the style she feels is appropriate. *Wild West Mercantile* is a moderately priced online source. Mary noted that there is also a need for lady's hats.

Training Opportunities: Clem will finish his training on "Governors Who Made a Difference" on Oct 16th at 10:00 in the theatre. It was suggested to alternate the training sessions between Wednesday and Thursday mornings, so the Wednesday WI desk volunteers can attend some of the sessions. Alex offered to show any interested volunteers the courtyard on the Assembly side of the building which is unknown to many. A request was made to have a tour of the newly renovated State Library and Courts Building. Rachel will try to arrange this.

NEW BUSINESS: None

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 in memory of **Caesar Abate** and **Christianne Culhane** – both active volunteers who have recently passed away. They will be missed.

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly CSCMVA Board meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on November 6 at 1:00 PM.

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the **Clarion**, cards have been sent to the following members:

Ann Rost – Continuing get well wishes and for a successful Rehabilitation phase

Barb Kokonas – Get well wishes following a fall and ankle injury

Family of **Christianne Culhane** – Condolences on her passing on September 28

Family of **Caesar Abate** – Condolences on his passing on September 15



If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of our membership. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425 -1909.

Thank You from Ann Rost:

"After two months in various hospital units, I came home on October 1. Hurray!! I want to thank everyone for your concern, prayers, cards and good wishes during my illness. It meant a lot to both Tom and me. Now I will continue with PT and OT to build strength and endurance. It seems like it might be a pretty long haul. Muscles aren't intended to be idle for so long."

"Thanks again; you are a very special group of friends!" *Ann Rost*

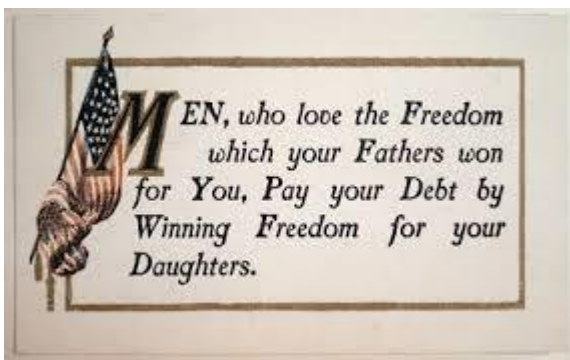


Ann at Work (PT)



Ann and Tom Relaxing

California Women's Suffrage Living History Day: October 13



Rehearsals are completed, and approximately 50 of our CSCMVA volunteers will assemble on Sunday, October 13 for the grand performance of events surrounding California's passage of Women's right to vote.

Providing evidence that the "journey" is as much fun as arriving at the destination, the rehearsal photos on the next page are testimony that volunteers had a great time together practicing their roles. *(Photos courtesy of Lou Below)*

Brief History of Women's Suffrage: Efforts to secure women's suffrage began decades before the Civil War, but they were not granted nationally until the ratification of the **19th Amendment** to the Constitution on **August 26, 1920**.

Organized efforts to secure women's vote are traced back to an 1848 gathering of abolitionist activists (mostly women) who were invited to Seneca Falls, New York by early reformers Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. During the 1850s the women's movement was gathering momentum, but the Civil War refocused the nation's attention. However, the 14th Amendment ratified in 1868, just 3

years following the end of the Civil War, provided Constitutional protection to all citizens, but the amendment defined “citizens” very narrowly as “male.” It wasn’t until 1870 when the 15th Amendment was ratified that black men were granted the right to vote. Interestingly, the effort to grant women the vote was a “markedly” less popular campaign. In fact Elizabeth Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and the National Women Suffrage Association organization they led, refused to support the 15th Amendment wishing to campaign for universal suffrage which would guarantee **both** women and black men the right to vote.

However, out of the successful passage of the 15th Amendment, a group called the American Woman Suffrage Association grew and sought women’s right to vote on a state-by-state basis. The two aforementioned groups subsequently merged under the name the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Interestingly, it was the western states, including Utah, Idaho and Washington that were the first to grant women the right to vote. (Indeed one of the earliest recorded successes occurred in 1869 when the Wyoming Territory amended their constitution granting women the right to vote and hold public office.) The State of California succeeded in granting women the vote in 1911 – the event that we will celebrate on **Sunday, October 13**.
(Source: History.com)

Scenes from the Final Rehearsal, Thursday October 10



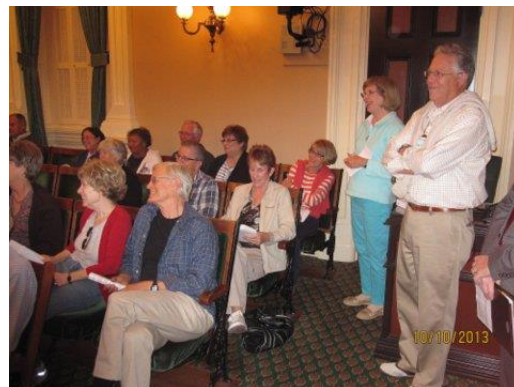
Appreciative Audience in Assembly Gallery



Marylin, Patty, PJ, Jan, Alex, Bob Dreyer
Connie and Vicky



Scotty and Diane



Volunteers Enjoying (Re)Living History

Admission Day Thank You...



Admission Day Chairperson **Sherri Routh** (center) thanks **Sally and David Leatherby** for their generous donation of ice cream to celebrate California's 163rd Birthday on September 9 at the California State Capitol.

Training: Governor's Portraits, Wednesday October 16

On October 16 **Clem Dougherty** will continue his interesting profiles of California Governors. In this upcoming training session in the Capitol Theater, Clem will present thought-provoking facts about Governors Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Ronald Reagan, Gray Davis and Jerry Brown. Training begins at 10 AM and will conclude at noon.

Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain Scotty Hodges

This volunteer was born in **Mount Clemons, Michigan** where her father was coincidentally stationed and comes from a large family that includes five other siblings. Her father was a Colonel in the United States Air Force, so she grew up in a military family, a benefit which she says allowed her to live in different parts of the country and learn and adapt to cultural differences. The family spent a major portion of their time in California where the Colonel was stationed at **Beale Air Force Base**. When it was time for his retirement, her parents made the decision to remain in California and settled in Carmichael.



Tricia Esparza

Tricia Esparza is well educated and has a **Bachelor of Arts in History** and a **Master of Science in Education** with an emphasis in Special Education. She worked in the field of education for thirty-seven years and considers herself very fortunate to have been able to teach grades ranging from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Throughout her career, her passion for History continued even into retirement. That passion was a motivating factor that propelled her to join the Volunteer Association.

She read about the opportunity to volunteer as a Capitol Docent in a local newspaper, applied, was selected, completed the class, and was mentored by **Patricia Butler**. Tricia exclaims that it was a serendipitous event being mentored by a woman with the same name as her maiden name and feels that **Pat is a “spectacular mentor.”** She also confesses that “...**volunteering at the Capitol fits in my soul. The history and the opportunity to interpret is a blend of what excites me!**”

She enjoys performing research as well, and then sharing that knowledge within group settings. She says that working in the Historic Museum Rooms at the Capitol is a special privilege. It provides her a great opportunity to continue her research and that, she feels, enhances her ability to interpret. For Tricia, meeting people from all walks of life opens up a greater understanding and perspective of their views of historic issues and the world. She says, it is truly exciting each week to enter any one of the Historical Museum Rooms.

After retirement, Tricia worked for two years at an equine rescue center. Did you know that she and her partner own two wonderful horses? She is up early each day at 5:00 A.M. feeding and mucking the pasture, and declares that she loves every moment of it. She also had the unique opportunity to travel to Texas as part of a team which worked with **eighty-four rescued Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wild Mustangs**. She informs me that these Mustangs were on the unlucky end of being purchased from a BLM Auction by a person who was not able to care for them. That was a great experience for her, because as a result of the team’s work, each horse was either able to enter a ‘sanctuary’ or be adopted into a ‘forever home.’

Although her career at the Capitol is just beginning, Tricia has spent a good deal of time manning the Historical Museum Rooms and has participated in the 1906 Election Living History event. She will also be participating in the upcoming October Women’s Suffrage Living History event. She looks forward to becoming active in many more events and accumulating those volunteer hours. Tricia says that she was born to teach and relishes the opportunity to share what she has learned. She is grateful that she has the ability to inform, educate, and field those random questions from Capitol visitors. She finds it very rewarding to be able to continue “**doing what she has a talent for and loves to do.**” The Association is fortunate that she has found a home at the Capitol, as visitors will definitely benefit from her teaching skills and love of history.



Final Services for Dedicated CSCMVA Volunteers:

Caesar Abate: The family of Caesar Abate invites members of CSCMVA to be present for a Memorial Service honoring his life followed by a Celebration of Life on Saturday, October 26 at the Newman Center, 6900 Newman Court, Sacramento. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations in Caesar’s memory to the California State Railroad Museum Foundation. The address is 111 “I” Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Christianne Culhane: Arrangements are pending to honor the life of Christianne.

Did You Know? By Clem Dougherty

DID YOU KNOW...that Alaska was once a Russian colony? Yes, it’s true. In the early 18th century the Russians came to Alaska in search of a small sea-faring animal known as the sea otter. In 1742 Vitus Bering, a Danish explorer in the service of Russia, discovered the Bering Sea and the coast of Alaska which teemed with thousands of sea otters. In the 18th century sea otter pelts were highly prized articles of clothing. Upon Bering’s discoveries, several Russian companies soon established

colonies off the Alaskan coast for the purpose of harvesting the sea otters. In hunting the sea otters the Russians employed Aleutian Indians who in their canoes became expert at spearing the tiny animals. A profitable trade arose between the Russians in Alaska and the Chinese on mainland China where the Russians (sometimes employing American and English ships as transporters) traded sea otter pelts to the Chinese who used the pelts for hats and for decoration on the bottoms of their long silk robes. As part of the trade the Chinese gave to the Russians silk, porcelain, and other Chinese goods.

In 1799 the Russian Tsar Paul I designated the Russian American Company as the exclusive agent for hunting sea otters in Alaska and other parts of North America. The Russian American Company was a Russian corporation in which the Tsar, other members of his royal family, and other Russian nobles held stock. The headquarters of the Russian American Company were at what is now Sitka, Alaska. By this time the Spanish had succeeded in colonizing California and had established a strong policy forbidding any trade between the Spanish in California and all foreigners including the Russians.



In 1806 Count Nikolai Rezanov, the Tsar's chamberlain, traveled on official business to Sitka where he found the residents to be starving and in need of a permanent supply of grain, meat, fruit and vegetables. Accordingly, Rezanov sailed south to California where, in spite of the Spanish embargo on trade with foreigners, he hoped to trade Russian goods for food for Sitka. Upon reaching San Francisco Bay on April 5, 1806, Rezanov found the Spanish Comandante of the presidio to be Jose Dario Arguello who had a daughter named Concepcion Arguello. Concepcion Arguello also known as Concha Arguello, as she was called by her family, was born at the presidio in San Francisco in February of 1791. By the time Rezanov arrived in San Francisco Bay, Concepcion Arguello was 16 years old and was reputed to be the most beautiful woman in Alta California. Breaking the Spanish ban on foreign trade, the

Concepcion Arguello

Spanish including Comandante Arguello, welcomed into their homes Rezanov who returned the good will with gifts of Russian goods. It was not long before Concepcion and Rezanov fell in love and decided to marry. Because she was Catholic and he was Russian Orthodox, both needed approval of the marriage from their respective Catholic and Russian authorities. In Rezanov's case the Tsar and the Russian Orthodox Patriarch in St. Petersburg had to approve. Rezanov then set sail from San Francisco with a ship full of food supplies for Sitka .

Departing from Sitka, Rezanov then returned to Siberia, and while crossing Siberia to reach St. Petersburg, Rezanov died accidentally, the nature of the accident not being clear. In any event, he never reached St. Petersburg. In the meantime Concepcion waited for his return to California not knowing that he had died. She waited for years and never married. After some time had passed, rumors reached California that Rezanov had died, and in 1847 some 36 years after Rezanov sailed to Alaska, his death was confirmed. However, upon waiting for his return, Concepcion turned more and more to religion and joined the Third Order of St. Francis (a lay organization attached to the Franciscan Order) to devote her life to teaching poor children and attending to the sick. In 1851, three years after Rezanov's death was confirmed, Concepcion entered the convent operated by the Dominican Sisters in Monterey and became their first native California born novice. When the convent moved from Monterey to Benicia in 1854, Concepcion went with them, The Sisters operated St. Catherine's convent and school in Benicia from 1854 to 1966. It was at St. Catherine's that Concepcion remained for the rest of her life teaching poor children until her death on December 23, 1857, at the age of 66.

Today, if you travel to the Dominican cemetery that sits on a wind-swept hill above the town of Benicia overlooking the Carquinez Straits, there in a simple grave lies Sister Mary Dominica also known as Concepcion Arguello.

In 1812 the Russians did come south to California and established Fort Ross on our Sonoma County coast – a story that will have to wait for another day.

(Sources: Rawls and Bean: California, An Interpretive History, 9th Ed., pp. 54-55; Kent Lightfoot: Indians, Missionaries, and Merchants, pp.51-52; pp.115-118; Douglas Kyle, editor: Historic Spots In California, 4th Ed., p.334; pp. 469-470; pp. 474-475; Bickford O'Brien, Ed: Fort Ross-Indians-Russians-Americans, p.9)

*(Editor's Note: The Special Features column is dedicated to interesting articles about California, our CA State Capitol or visits to other state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share experiences and/or researched information in this column. For inclusion in the **Clarion**, please send articles to Marti Dennis at mdennis1@att.net)*

Upcoming Events:

Women's Suffrage Living History:	Sunday, October 13
Governors' Portraits Training:	Wednesday, October 16 at 10 AM
Board Meeting:	Wednesday, November 6 at 1 PM
Capitol Art Work Training:	Thursday, November 21 at 10 AM
Capitol Holiday Music:	Daily, December 1 through 23
Annual Meeting & Luncheon:	TBD, January 2014

Capitol Museum website:

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319
Rachel Martinez

Tour Guide Office: 324-0333

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day